

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-22 have been pending in the application and claims 1 and 12 are independent claims. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been rejected. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. However, to further the prosecution of this application, claims 1, 6, 9, 10 and 12-22 are canceled by this amendment. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's arguments and will prosecute these claims in continuation applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11 have been rewritten so as not to depend on the rejected base claims. Each of claims 3 and 4 depends on amended claim 2 with limitations to the features thereof.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added with amendments to the claims.

For reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11, which remain pending in this application, are in condition for allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By *Lubashev*
Lyudmila Lubashev
Registration No. 55,408
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: *8/17/2005*